

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6997

BILL NUMBER: HB 1416

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Credit Time for Approved Correspondence Courses.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. McNamara

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that, for an imprisoned person to earn credit time for successfully completing the requirements for a high school diploma through correspondence courses, each correspondence course must be approved in advance by the Department of Correction.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill potentially reduces the time that Department of Correction (DOC) staff has to challenge earned credit time claims by some offenders.

DOC reports that offenders are attempting to buy diplomas from out-of-state correspondence schools and claiming earned credit time. This bill would specify that correspondence courses must be accredited by the Department of Education in the state where the entity is located or by AdvancED.

AdvancED is the unified organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

DOC reports that in CY 2010 it was involved in 110 cases in which offenders claimed earned credit time after receiving diplomas from unaccredited correspondence programs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction; Office of the Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Tim Brown, Department of Correction.

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Goodpaster, 317-232-9852.